

**CLARK COUNTY
CLEAN WATER COMMISSION
Regular Meeting**

Wednesday, August 16, 2000
6:00 – 9:00 PM

Clark County Public Works Department
Conference Room
4700 NE 78th Street
Vancouver, Washington

Approved as amended

Call to Order

Roll Call

Commission Members Present

Robert Agard, Willie Bourlet, Cal Ek, Dana Kemper, Mary Martin
Susan Rasmussen, Don Steinke, and Art Stubbs,

Commission Members Absent

Peter Tuck

Guest

Lores Barnes, Public Works; and Marlia Jenkins, Community Development

County Public Works Staff

Kelli Frost, Cindy Meats, Rod Swanson and Earl Rowell

Public

Bill Kravas and John Kendal

Introduction

The members of the Clean Water Commission and Clark County staff introduced themselves to the public. Commissioner Agard, Chair, then called the meeting to order.

Agenda and Material Review

Mr. Rowell reviewed the material for the meeting.

Included are:

- News articles;
- Notes from July 19 meeting;
- NPDES Program Monitoring Schedule;
- Memo to Rod Swanson from Metro King County;
- Memo from Bud Cave to Earl Rowell;
- Clean Water Billing – Phone log;
- Clean Water Fund budget status report;
- Memo to Willie Bourlet from Marlia Jenkins regarding Job Descriptions; and a
- Year 2000 Clean Water Program (NPDES permit) organizational chart.

Communications from the public/media/agencies

Mr. Rowell – We met with the City of Vancouver to discuss the Vancouver stormwater program and how it correlates with County efforts. It may be beneficial, in the future, to have them do a presentation for this group and/or for this group to sit down with Vancouver City Council.

We've also met with Department of Ecology, in the tri-county area of King, Snohomish and Pierce counties regarding the Clean Water Program, to find out what's happening in the Puget Sound Region. There may be an opportunity for Clean Water Commissioners, Department of Ecology and Board of County Commissioners to be involved in a workshop with those that are developing regulations at the state level.

I had the opportunity to meet with East Vancouver Rotary regarding the Clean Water Program. This was a good opportunity to educate the public, about who we are, and what we are trying to achieve.

Mr. Agard noted that he would like to be notified of any future WDOE meetings.

Mr. Agard remarked that he would like each Commissioner to talk to the granges or groups that they belong to, and let them know about the information available, regarding the Clean Water Program.

Mr. Ek – You want us to explain to these people what the County program entails?

Mr. Agard - I would like you to let them know that we can have County staff attend their meeting and explain the cleanwater ordinance to them.

7/19/00 meeting notes

The meeting notes were approved as amended.

Old Business

Monitoring, Neighborhood Stormwater Pilot Project, and water quality work by school students

Mr. Rowell - At the last meeting we talked about monitoring at specific locations, what can be accomplished and in what time frame things could be accomplished. Mr. Swanson, staff, and I met to discuss what we are currently doing, what info we have in place, and what we want to accomplish as part of this program. We determined that what we have in place is a characterization study.

Mr. Ek – Mr. Swanson would you mind elaborating on what a characterization study is?

Mr. Swanson –This is a process in which we sample a minimum of five sites for a minimum of three storms for evidence of pollutants. In order to do this project, we bought five automatic samplers at approximately \$30,000. They were installed in manholes, and samples were taken and sent into the lab.

We have stream gauges on Salmon Creek that we have been operating for years. We also have four tipping bucket rain gauges in the Vancouver and BattleGround area.

Last month we started a storm sewer-screening project. Representatives visit various storm sewers and samples are tested.

Mr. Swanson – It may be too expensive for this group to implement a research project based on water quality.

Mr. Stubbs – I would like to be able to explain that we've spent \$4 million and this is what was done.

Mr. Rowell – What is being discussed here is similar to the Wellhead Protection grant, which is designed to look at wellhead contribution areas. A survey was completed at the start of the program, then education was implemented, and another survey.

Mr. Stubbs – I think the public is going to want an answer, at the end of the year, on how the clean water fee money was spent

Mr. Agard – My idea is to involve the Watershed Stewards, the schools, and make it a volunteer program. With e-mail most of the temperature, turbidity and common test results could go into a database at Clark County. We can start compiling a bunch of data at a fairly reasonable cost.

Ms. Rasmussen – In the 1999 Funding Task Force, it was our intention to get the community involved in ways that Commissioner Agard was describing and I think we ought to consider it more seriously.

Mr. Agard – Will that get the County any worthwhile information?

Mr. Swanson – It can.

Mr. Ek – I agree with Commissioner Rasmussen that using volunteer help is very good. But, from the standpoint of a test engineer, the design of the experiment is a crucial part of the experiment. Who is doing the testing, what do they know about what they are doing, is it a repetitive process etc. So I'm a bit apprehensive about the usability of the data except in a generic way.

I hope that Mr. Swanson and Mr. Rowell understand that you have nine Commissioners that are in favor of establishing a test program. We are all serving on this committee because we have a strong technical interest or a strong interest in water quality.

Ms. Martin- I think it's important to note that when everybody received their bill for \$33.00 we made them aware that there is a clean water issue. That may be the most important step we take this year.

Mr. Agard- I'm very aware that the testing program I'm talking about is a rough idea, but it could provide some information for very little money. It can also provide education to the kids who are testing the water.

Mr. Agard – I'd like to table this until next meeting and I'd like to meet with Mr. Swanson and see if we can set up a program to present at the next meeting.

Street Sweeping

Mr. Rowell – In your packet of material is a memo from Mr. Bud Cave. He inquired with King County, Snohomish County and Pierce County regarding street sweeping. In Clark County street sweeping is done nine times a year in sub divisions, twelve times in arterials. In King County it's four to five times in arterials, in Snohomish and Pierce County it is twelve times.

Over the last year when street sweeping increased, there have been fewer calls from the public. Because of the increase in street sweeping, less debris is reaching the catch basins or the creeks.

Mr. Bourlet – Why is part of the \$33.00 going to sweep streets?

Mr. Rowell – Because of the Clean Water Program (NPDES permit) requires us to do more street sweeping, ditch maintenance, and a variety of additional activities.

Update: Partnership with School Districts

Mr. Rowell – Vancouver, Hockinson, Ridgefield, Battle Ground and Green Mountain have signed the agreement to work with the County to educate the youth and to work with the neighborhoods in their area. LaCenter, due to economics, is not going to participate. Camas, Washougal and Evergreen have not made a decision on whether to participate, we will continue discussions with these three schools.

Mr. Steinke – I would encourage you to recommend to school districts for grades seven through nine that they include, the Stormwater Pollution Control Manual Pollution Control Practices for Households as part of their education.

Mr. Ek - I'd like to know from the County staff, on the school's that has said yes, what do they agree to?

Mr. Rowell – We have asked the prospective school districts to complete a survey that was mailed out, to explain to us what they are doing. We are not asking them to change their curriculum, we are asking them to provide an opportunity for staff to come into their classroom and talk about water quality, and water resources.

Mr. Agard – I'd like to ask that Ms. Meats and Mr. Steinke get together and see if there were anyway that they could possibly promote the Stormwater Pollution Control Manual.

Public Input

Questions/Answers

Mr. Kendall – I'm interested in knowing how much money you have collected so far? Where is the program to implement these things in the form of a coordinated database, where are you collecting the information?

Mr. Agard – As you heard earlier, we are trying to work on a program to collect data.

Ms. Barnes – As of today the Clean Water Program has collected \$3,637,491.39.

Mr. Kravas – I have a comment on something Mr. Stubbs said last meeting regarding it not being a tax. The only people that are really affected by this are the residential owners. Every commercial venture has a means to recover these fees, yet there is nothing the individual can do about it. It should have been a tax.

Mr. Stubbs – If it's a tax then it can be raised in increments. If it's a fee it can't be without the agreement of the Commissioners. I am adamantly opposed to adding anything to property taxes.

Mr. Kendall – How many street sweepers have you bought.

Mr. Agard – The County bought 2 additional sweepers, and there is one more in the budget.

Ongoing Projects/Information

Mr. Agard – I'm wondering how the Commission feels about having different schools see if they would like to produce a short three minute video as part of a community service ad.

The Commissioners have agreed to have Ms. Meats look into video production through the schools for educational purposes.

New Business

Clean Water Fee (comments/appeals)

Mr. Rowell referred to the handout, which provided a list of the types of calls that came in about the clean water fee.

Budget, Monthly Work Plan, Report Card

Ms. Barnes discussed the budget, referring to the handout in the packet.

Note – In the next budget report you will see a more representative number, as the Clean Water Program has deferred payment to public works maintenance and operation pending receipt of revenues.

Enforcement- Overview of positions

Ms. Jenkins– In response to an inquiry from Commissioner Bourlet, Ms. Jenkins provided a memo, which described by division, the number of staff working on the Clean Water Program, how this relates to the core services versus the enhanced service offered. Followed by the actual job descriptions and advertisement for the position that was filled using the NPDES funds.

Commissioner Bourlet said it should a policy when we have staff give a presentation we give them the floor after the minutes have been approved so they don't have be here the whole time.

Note: All were in favor of this ruling.

Incentives/CIPs

Mr. Rowell –How do we provide incentives to the public.

Mr. Agard – I was not ready to start on this until after I saw the budget.

Mr. Stubbs – We discussed that there would not be any incentives the first year, and possibly into the second year.

Mr. Rowell – We need some feedback from the Commissioners to make that determination.

Ms. Martin – Our recommendation to the Board of Commissioners was that during the first year there would be no incentives.

Mr. Agard – I would like to come up with some possible incentives before the end of the year.

Mr. Agard suggested the Commission consider having bi-monthly meetings.

Mr. Ek – We stopped having bi-monthly meetings at the recommendation of Mr. Rowell. It was never brought up for discussion. I would like to know why we stopped having meetings twice a month.

Mr. Rowell – The Commission had a learning curve that to get past. In the by-laws it states that at a minimum you need to have a monthly meeting.

Ms. Martin – The Commission did state that we would only have twice month meeting through July, then we would go to once a month meeting.

Note: All were in favor of bi-monthly meetings.

Mr. Bourlet – How many items on previous agendas have not been fully discussed or resolved. We need to have some format for tracking what the Commission has resolved.

Mr. Agard – I will go through past minutes and see if I can pick those items out and put a list together for next meeting.

Next Steps

Next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for September 6, 2000 from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. at this same location.

Adjourn

Commissioner Agard adjourned the meeting at 9:00pm.

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Respectfully submitted by Kelli Frost